SPAWN

THE DARK AGES

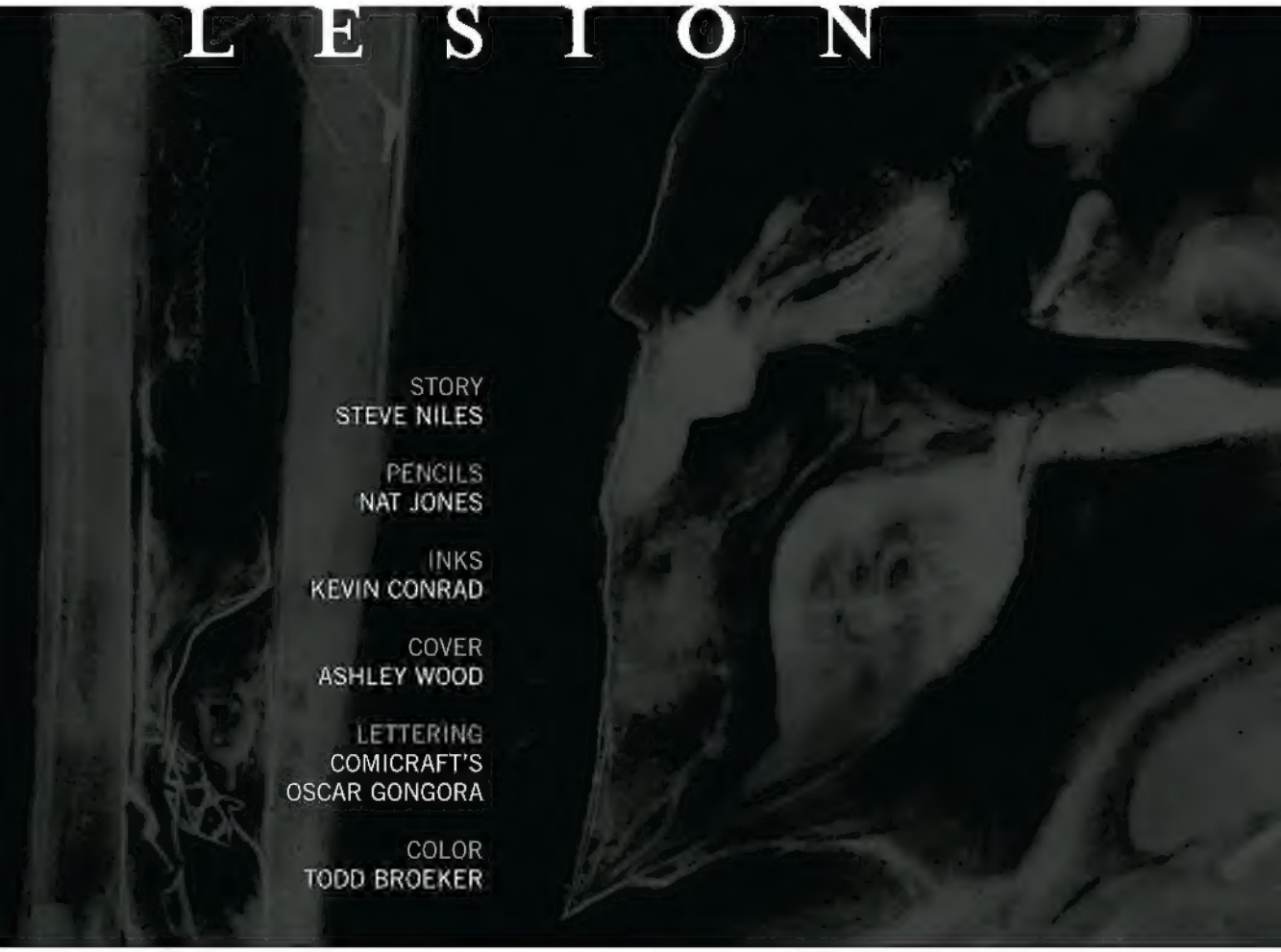
26
DIGITAL EDITION

SPAWN.COM

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

TODD McFARLANE AND IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

LESION



STORY
STEVE NILES

PENCILS
NAT JONES

INKS
KEVIN CONRAD

COVER
ASHLEY WOOD

LETTERING
COMICRAFT'S
OSCAR GONGORA

COLOR
TODD BROEKER

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

SUMMARY

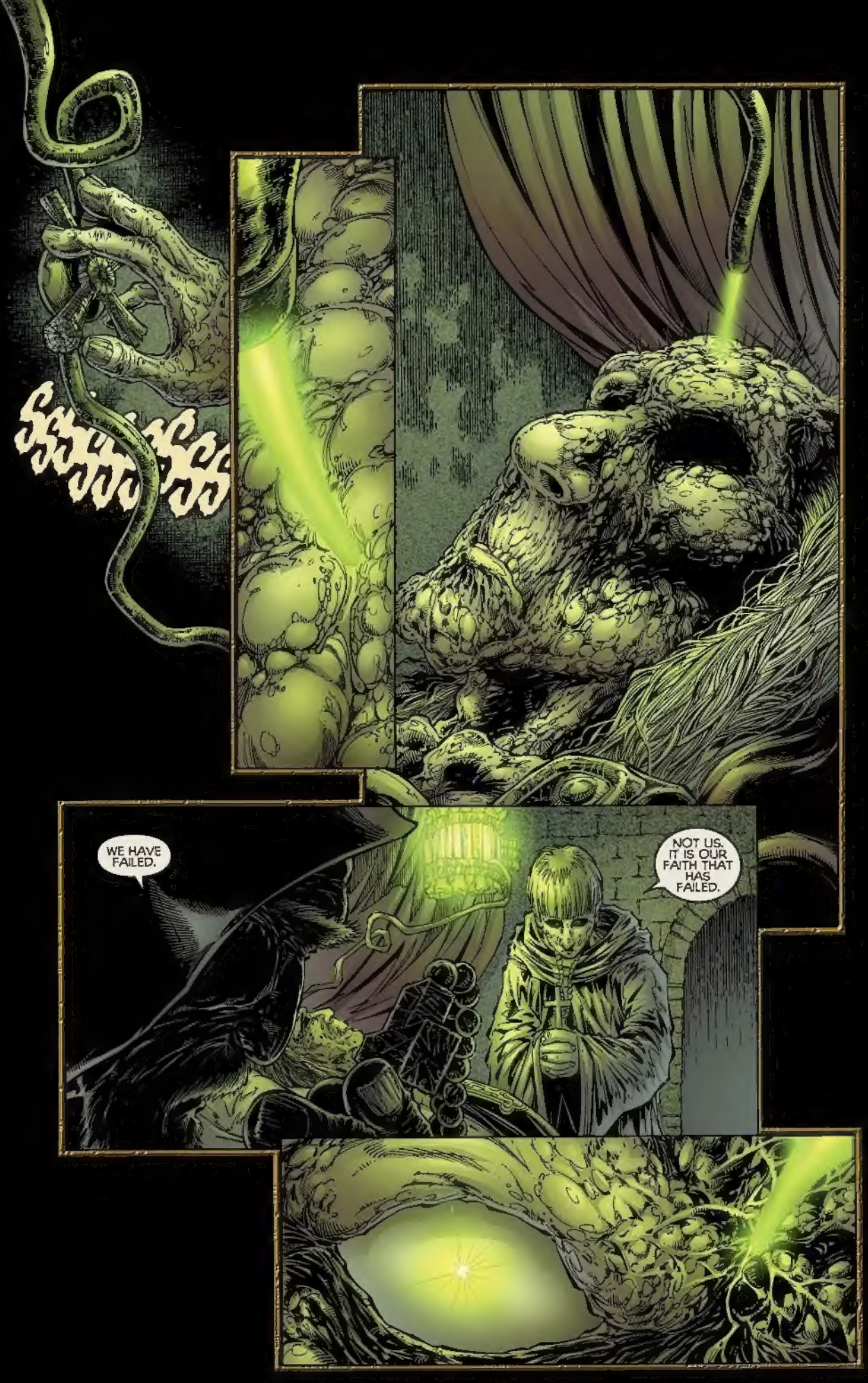
The stolen Necroplasm makes its way to the dying Bishop Gaston Gui, while the rest of the Bishop's city perishes from the plague. Raven and Gareth both search for Covenant, but for different reasons. When they find the Hellspawn they are surprised at the new power he has acquired from Dumas. But before Covenant can continue his search for the Necroplasm, he has a debt to repay to young Alec, who had once saved Covenant's life. He finds the Viking ship ready to leave for home after ravaging Rhyll one last time, and sets a trap that kills all the Vikings. Meanwhile, Gareth tells Covenant his visions concerning the stolen Necroplasm.

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
SPAWN.COM

SPAWN The Dark Ages #26 June 2001. Digital Edition. June 2013. Published by IMAGE COMICS, 2001 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2013 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. The characters Angela, Domina, Tiffany and all other Heaven's Warrior Angel characters are ™ and © 1993-1996 and 2000 Neil Gaiman. All rights reserved. All other characters are ™ and © 2013 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc.

Outside, a city waits to die.
WE ARE TOO LATE.
WE MUST TRY TO INJECT THE FLUID, THE MASTER INSISTED.
BUT HE IS *DEAD*, KILLIAN!
SO BE IT.
Inside, death has already closed it's cold, cruel hand.


WE HAVE FAILED.
NOT US. IT IS OUR FAITH THAT HAS FAILED.

MY GOD, IT WORKED. HE RISES!
AAAHHEEE!
GOD WILL PUNISH US! HE HAS WITNESSED OUR BLASPHEMY!
GH!

KILLIAN... THEY HAVE ME... WHAT HAVE WE DONE... THE BEAST HAS ME...
KEEP AWAY, SIR. I DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU!
...THEY ARE IN HERE WITH ME... IT'S... HORRIBLE... HORRIBLE.
WHO, SIR?! WHO IS?
THE DEVILS.
THE DEMONS... ARE INSIDE ME...
LORDSHIP, REMAIN CALM. I WILL SEEK THE HELP OF ANOTHER HOLY MAN, AND WE WILL END THIS NIGHTMARE.
...YOU... MISUNDERSTAND... THE DEVILS ARE IN HERE WITH ME AND...
...I LIKE IT!

I CAN SEE THINGS NOW, KILLIAN. I CAN SEE IF I DO NOT KILL YOU TODAY, YOU WILL GO ON TO COMMIT GREAT SIN.
YOU WILL WALK THE STREETS AS AN OLD MAN LOOKING FOR CHILDREN. YOU WILL TAKE THESE CHILDREN AND DEFILE THEM.
NO... THIS IS NOT TRUE!
BUT IT IS. IT IS. HELL'S BLOOD HAS GIVEN ME THE SIGHT. I SEE THAT EVEN NOW YOU LOOK AT CHILDREN AND CRAVE THE FLESH. I SEE YOUR BLACK HEART.
NO... I WILL NEVER DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING!
NO... YOU WON'T.
MY PEOPLE... I MUST SEE MY PEOPLE.
THE DAY HAS ARRIVED! SALVATION IS AT HAND! RISE AILING MASSES AND COME TO ME! COME TO ME AND RECEIVE THE GIFT!
I WILL TAKE AWAY YOUR PAIN!

Far away, the jubilant sounds of a long awaited celebration echo through the forest east of Rfyll.
They are celebrating victory over the Northmen, the return of their master and the beginning of a new village.
Those who fled Rfyll have returned and those who watched Turnbold burn to the ground have come with a single purpose...
...to live free and protected under the watchful guard of their mysterious messiah once called Covenant.

AYE. WE'LL BE SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE A LORD CLAIMS THIS LAND AS HIS AND TRIES TO TAX US.
WHEN THE TIME COMES WE WILL EXPLAIN THEN THAT WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT VILLAGE. I THINK THEY CAN BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND.
I MEAN NO OFFENSE, BUT THERE ARE MORE PRESSING MATTERS AT HAND.
YOU SPEAK OF THESE VISIONS YOU CLAIM TO HAVE EXPERIENCED?
DO NOT MOCK ME, HELLSPAWN. MY WORD IS TRUTH.
I MEANT NO DISRESPECT. I JUST DO NOT SEE WHERE THESE VISIONS CAN LEAD US. YOU DO NOT EVEN HAVE A LOCATION.

HE MAY NOT, BUT I KNOW FROM WHERE THESE VISIONS ORIGINATE.
WHO?
COGLIOSTRO!
I HAVE BEEN TO THE PLACE WHERE THESE VISION BLOOM, AND I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT HELL IS LOOSE ON EARTH AND IT IS YOUR FAULT HELLSPAWN, AS IT IS YOURS DRUID!
I WOULD WATCH MY TONGUE IF I WERE YOU!
STAY BACK! BOTH OF YOU!
I SAID STOP!
IF IT'S A FIGHT YOUR LOOKING FOR, I'LL HONOR YOUR WISH DIRT-WORSHIPPER!
CEASE THIS.
PUT... ME... DOWN.
I'VE SAID MY PIECE.
GOOD. NOW LET US SIT AND DRINK AND DISCUSS WHAT HAS BEEN UNEARTHED.

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

FROM WHAT I GATHER HE WAS A HOLY-MAN WHO RULED THE CITY AS AN REPRESENTATIVE OF A FOREIGN LAND. HE'S RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN AS FAIR AS ANY RULER, BUT WHEN PLAGUE CAME TO THE CITY, HE BECAME DESPERATE.
THIS IS WHEN HE HEARD OF THE UNHOLY FLUID I TOOK FROM THE HELLSPAWN?
IT'S CALLED NECROPLASM, AND THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION'S YES, WHEN PLAGUE BEGAN CONSUMING THIS HOLY-MAN, AND HE KNEW HE WOULD DIE, HE HEARD TALE OF YOUR... VENTURE.
THE VAPOR OF HELL INTRODUCED INTO THE DYING BODY OF A HOLY-MAN.
HE HAS BECOME A CREATURE UNLIKE ANYTHING I HAVE EVER SEEN. HORRIBLE. HE...IT IS RUMORED TO BE DEVOURING THE FLESH AND BONE OF THE INNOCENT. HUNDREDS WERE DEAD WHEN I TRAVELED NEAR. BY NOW IT COULD BE TEN TIMES THAT NUMBER.
SO NOW, THE FACTS ARE ON THE TABLE AND I WILL ASK YOU THIS ONCE, HELLSPAWN. WHAT ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO?
WE GO TO THIS CITY. WE FIND THIS HOLY-MAN AND WE ASSASSINATE HIM.
...AND WE TAKE BACK THE NECROPLASM!

And so it goes. Three would go to Gul's city; Cog, Druid and Hellspawn.
What lay ahead for them rests in fate's unpredictable grasp.
But death hung in the air, thick.
WHAT HAVE YOU THERE, BOY?
SOME-TH NG I MADE FOR YOU.
Hung in the air, thick, unwelcome, impossible to ignore.
THANK YOU.
Death. It's foul stink penetrating each of the warriors senses like a horde of hungry maggots on their brains.
It is a familiar sensation, like fear, that only those who have entered and survived battle can understand.

And so it goes...
Hear! Hear! Will come the day of the first of devils and unjust heretics on earth pagans.
The Hood Man falls moaning, pits and falls to the ground of Hell's mouth of his flesh.
Those Hell whisper. Those demons come...!

Disembowel the healthy, flay and spit down their throats the digested flesh of the diseased.
Evacuate the mothers and the children and the fathers begging for their lives.
Bathe in the disease of your sins, decay and pile the bodies high so that the master can see them from the pile soaked pits of hell itself.
Pile the bodies high!

Pile the bodies from city's edge to city's edge and then bow down and wait for a fallen soldier of Malebolgia to approach.
Take this fallen soldier and show him the true rage of the master and of the host.
Kill the fallen soldier for he is a coward and traitor.
And when it is done partake in its flesh.
PARADISSSSSE.

THE SMELL... IT IS HORRIBLE.
BEYOND BELIEF
THERE IS GREAT EVIL IN THIS CITY I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES.
IT IS PART OF ME.
WE CAME HERE KNOWING THIS WAS THE CONSEQUENCE OF YOUR SO-CALLED SALVATION.
I WILL DO WHAT IS NECESSARY I WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
EVEN IF IT MEANS TAKING BACK WHAT THE DRUID EXTRACTED? EVEN IF IT MEANS WALKING AGAIN WITH THE UNHOLY DAMNED? THERE WILL BE NO TURNING BACK. MALEBOLGIA WILL SURELY COME FOR YOU THIS TIME.
I WILL DO WHAT IT TAKES TO END THIS HORROR. YOU NEEDN'T SOUND SO PLEASED AT THE PROSPECT.
THERE IS NO PLEASURE IN MY WORDS, HELLSPAWN. ONLY TRUTH.
ONE DAY I WILL TAKE YOUR WORDS AND SHOVE THEM DOWN YOUR ARROGANT THROAT, COGLIOSTRO.
GENTLEMEN...

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

GARETH, WAIT HERE WITH THE HORSES. COG WALK BEHIND ME. THIS IS MY FIGHT.
GUI.

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU BROTHER.
I AM NOT YOUR BROTHER. FIEND.
BUT YOU ARE, COVENANT. MALEBOLGIA IS HERE WITH ME, INSIDE ME. HE IS VERY ANGRY WITH YOU BROTHER. HE WANTS ME TO SWALLOW YOUR HEART.
PLEASE... NO... GET THEM OFF ME.
THEY ARE TEARING ME APART... THE DEVILS... SWALLOW THE PLAGUE... EAT THE FLESH... KILL THE HERO... GOD ABOVE! PLEASE SAVE ME FROM THIS UNHOLY TORMENT!
LET US HELP YOU..
NO, YOU FOOL! IT IS A --
-- TRICK!
COGLIOSTRO!

HE WAS RIGHT YOU KNOW. IT WAS A TRICK.
PREPARE TO DIE, HELLSPAWN. PREPARE TO RETURN TO HELL!

Darkness